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THE BAPTIST

MAY 25 1999

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Mississippians minister in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. (BP) — "Pack and go to North Dakota as pastor of Riverwood," Ron Rich wrote May 4, 1993, in his "Experiencing God" course book, responding to the question, "What does God want you to do in response to today's study?"

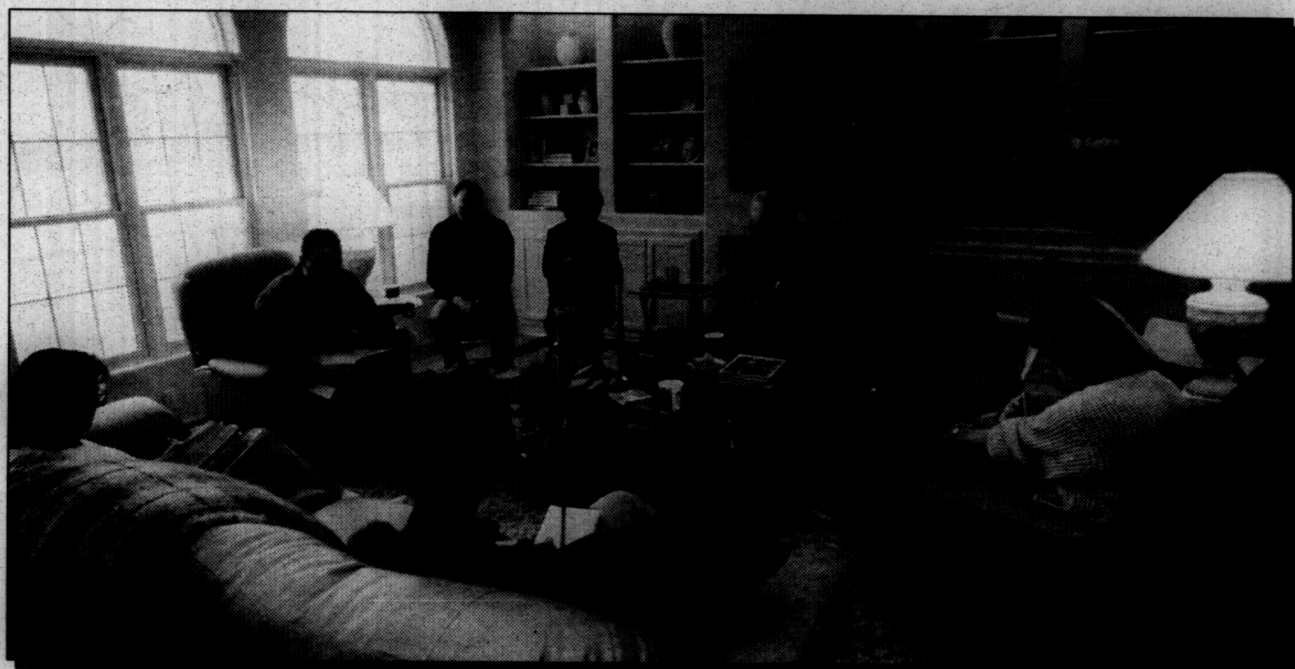
Rich's contact with Riverwood Baptist Church in Bismarck, N.D., had begun several months earlier when he and Betty had had lunch with Ron Owens of the North American Mission Board (NAMB). Owens had told Rich about the fledgling mission in North Dakota, asked him to provide a resume, and urged him to begin a study of the Experiencing God discipleship course.

By the time Ron and Betty flew to Bismarck in view of a call to Riverwood, they were convinced God was calling them to leave a comfortable pastorate in Alabama, uproot their family, and move to North Dakota.

Five and a half years later, Riverwood is living up to its potential. It led Dakota churches in baptisms in 1997 and has been second five of the last six years. It now has about 200 members and averages more than 150 in Sunday morning worship.

"What God has done at this church, he's done through our people. They step out on faith," Rich said.

Rich has sought out staff members the same way he was drawn to Riverwood — by laying out the opportunity based on his understanding of God's



SAVING MINISTRY — Mississippian Allen Spencer (far left), minister of music and drama, leads one of Riverwood Baptist Church's Experiencing God classes at the home of Larry and Donna Hanson in Bismarck, N.D. Larry said he was attracted to Riverwood because people are being saved through the church's ministry. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

leadership, making clear the church lacks full salary funding while emphasizing his conviction that God will provide.

Riverwood's minister of music and drama, Allen Spencer, grew up in First Church, Senatobia, and served two terms as a Mississippi Baptist Student Union summer missionary in the Dakotas while a student at Northwest Community College in Senatobia and Mississippi College in Clinton.

He returned to Bismarck after college and married his wife Stefanie, a Biloxi native

whose father Jimmy Lawrence serves as associate pastor of First Church, Biloxi. Stefanie serves as ministry assistant.

"For more than three years now, I've been a Mission Service Corps volunteer through NAMB. Much of my financial support comes from individuals and churches across Mississippi," Allen Spencer said, anticipating full church support within two years.

"I love the people here, the informal atmosphere," Spencer said. "We have CEOs and former inmates. This is an accepting congregation of second chances."

He noted about 30 inmates reached through the church's prison ministry hold membership through Riverwood.

Nine groups now meet at various times throughout the week, including a group of senior adults who also pray for the pastor, staff, and outreach of the church. In addition, 10-15 FAITH participants go out each Monday to minister and witness.

"My dream for Riverwood is that we can really penetrate this area for Christ. We will have to be a strong church to do that. We also want to be a source of encouragement to other Southern Baptist churches in our area," said Rich.

Reflecting on the past and looking to the future, Rich said, "I get choked up when I think about what I believe God's going to do here. I'd like to be here for the rest of my life."

Pro-life making gains

WASHINGTON (BP) — The pro-life movement continues to make gains in public opinion, a recent Gallup survey found. In a poll for USA Today and CNN, Gallup found the number of American adults who identify themselves as "pro-life" has increased from 36% three years ago to 42%. Those who describe themselves as "pro-choice," meanwhile, have fallen from a high of 56% to 48% in the same time span. The survey also found support for a ban on partial-birth abortion has grown from 55% two years ago to 61%.

The teen abortion rate dropped 31% in a 10-year period, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute. In 1986, the rate was 42.3 abortions per 1,000 teens, but in 1996 it was 29.2. The abortion ratio, which is the proportion of teenage pregnancies resulting in abortion, declined 24%, falling from 45.7 abortions per 100 pregnancies in 1986 to 34.9 in 1996.

A report by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) showed a decline in the teen birth rate of 16% from 1991 to 1997. The study found all 50 states recorded a decline in the birth rate for 15- to 19-year-olds. HHS also reported the out-of-wedlock birth rate for unmarried women in 1997 fell to 44 births per 1,000 unmarried women 15 to 44 years of age. That is 2% lower than in 1996 and 6% lower than in 1994.

The latest complete data for the report was from 1997.

Looking back

10 years ago

Mississippi Baptists dedicate a new wing and staff house at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian. The new wing will house 176 people, bringing the campground's total capacity to 528 people. The new staff house will accommodate 60 workers, plus house parents. The projects cost over \$5 million.

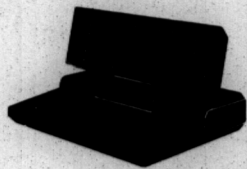
20 years ago

Sixteen men from 11 churches in Gulf Coast Association participate in Bold Missions Thrust in Barbados. The 10-day construction project was coordinated by Sam Turner, director of missions; Bill Womack of Barbados Baptist College; and Paul Harrell of the Miss. Brotherhood Department.

50 years ago

"Balcony Sitters" is the subject of the convention sermon delivered by Norman W. Cox, pastor of First Church, Meridian, at the Southern Baptist Convention in Oklahoma City. Cox is the first Mississippi pastor in 50 years to be honored as convention preacher.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Missrecord@aol.com**

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Respect for past, responsibility to future

The dawn of the twentieth century must have been a momentous time for that generation, just as the dawn of the twenty-first century is for this generation.

The country was at peace, if not the world. The Spanish-American War was over, but *I-ho-ch'uan* — better known as the Boxers — had just begun their slaughter of Chinese Christians and missionaries in their campaign to drive foreign influences from that country.

Coming off what was arguably the most inventive pair of decades in Western history, it must have seemed there was no end

to technological and scientific advancement. Transportation, communications, medicine, and virtually every other component of modern life were being revolutionized.

It was more than just new gadgets. With real change overtaking religion, business, economics, and society in general at a breathtaking pace, people were being compelled to rethink their entire way of life or risk being left behind.

A growing number of people were turning away from God and toward the physical world for easily-grasped answers to cosmic questions, and to receive quick explanations for the dizzying changes they could not understand.

The confusing array of complicated philosophies promoted by self-important holy men began to surmount the simple message of the Cross in the hearts and minds of people who began to believe they were in charge of their own eternal destiny — if they believed at all in eternal destiny.

We know from the

benefit of hindsight that much tragedy was to follow. Come to think of it, the beginning of the twenty-first century looks a whole lot like the beginning of the twentieth century, doesn't it?

The old axiom, "The more things change, the more they stay the same," seems truer today than ever.

So here we stand, another generation on the cusp of another monumental time, impelled toward changes in every aspect of our lives and the lives of all the lost people who surround us. The question must be asked: Will we be found faithful?

One of the ways Mississippi Baptists have reached out to a lost world in the midst of upheaval and confusion is to establish institutions that serve as lighthouses for people trying to find their way to the Savior.

Mississippi Baptists have chosen for well over 100 years to devote much of our time and treasure to those lighthouse institutions in such diverse fields as higher education,

ministerial education, medicine, journalism, Christian action, history, care of orphans, and a foundation to fund worthy causes.

God has seen fit to bless those efforts beyond anything we could have hoped or imagined or expected. To him be the glory!

All of these God-ordained endeavors have required people who, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, have consistently and sacrificially answered the call to serve on the boards and commissions that oversee these institutions.

The annual time has come to compile the list of nominees that messengers to the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention will consider for service on these boards and commissions.

A team of Mississippi Baptists — members of the Committee on Nominations — are currently praying over each and every nomination they must make to the messengers, seeking God's men and women for the call to this crucial service.

Given the institutions we have inherited from the men and women who went before us, it is obvious that serving on these boards and commissions is one of the most important services we can perform as Mississippi Baptists.

Be in prayer that God will raise up the leaders this year to serve his Mississippi work well into the next century. Be in prayer about your own part in this process, both for the nominations to be made and for service if called upon by the nominations committee.

When the next generation of Mississippi Baptists stands on the verge of the twenty-second century, will they look back and consider us faithful? The answer is up to us.

Let's think about it, pray about it, and plan to serve without hesitation. Amen!

Committee set to begin filling MBC boards, commissions

The Committee on Nominations of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) is soliciting recommendations for individuals to serve on MBC boards and commissions, according to Jay Richardson, committee chairman and pastor of First Church, Greenville.

A limited number of vacancies will be filled on:

- ◆ Board of Ministerial Education
- ◆ Christian Action Commission
- ◆ Education Commission
- ◆ Historical Commission
- ◆ Baptist Children's Village
- ◆ Miss. Baptist Health Systems, Inc. (Jackson)
- ◆ Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis)
- ◆ Blue Mountain College
- ◆ Mississippi College

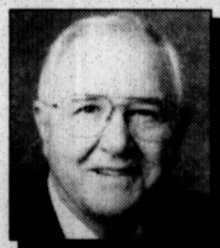
- ◆ William Carey College

◆ Miss. Baptist Convention Board.
Nomination forms can be obtained from the Office of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

The nominating committee will work in conjunction with the heads of institutions and agencies in bringing a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers at the 1999 annual meeting of the MBC.

The 1999 MBC annual meeting will be held Oct. 26-27 at First Church, Jackson. Members of cooperating Mississippi Baptist churches who wish to serve as messengers should contact their pastor or church office.

GUEST OPINION:



A renewed interest in prophecy

*By Guy Henderson, member
Morrison Heights Church, Clinton*

it "millennial mania." A millennial watch has been instigated in Jerusalem and a spiritual watch on a world-wide scale.

Y2K will interfere with the weather and a rash of thunderstorms, hurricanes, and tidal waves is predicted. Shortages of supplies, a run on the supermarket, on the bank, not to mention gasoline and kerosene will occur. Supposedly you can forget about electricity. The truth is that Y2K could possibly be a nightmare because everybody is hoarding all the supplies. We ought to keep a medical kit, a dependable flashlight and fire extinguisher ready all

the time, not just in Y2K season.

Banks, supermarkets, utility companies and government offices have repeatedly said they are ready. Many people are not looking toward Washington but toward the eastern sky as the day approaches. Be prepared for scams, especially telephone scams, by which promises will be made if you give them your charge card number, etc. The end could be near. If so, believers will not have to worry about supplies. God consults no calendar nor clocks. He does not have to wait until Y2K, nor has he revealed the date to any of us.

What should believers and churches do to get ready for the new millennium? One can prepare to see new doors open for ministry. Believers can show that we believe John 24, "Let not your heart be troubled." Keep in mind that a thousand years is as a day to the Lord. Perhaps Jesus gave us the best advice in Matthew 24:14, "Watch out that no one deceive you." There will be more books, more articles (such as this), more sermons, more scams, and more emphasis on the end of the age. We can rejoice in a renewal of interest in Kingdom affairs or pretend it doesn't matter. It does matter and there will be universal interest.

The future has long fascinated man and a new millennium will only enhance this. Frustrations and the uncertainties of life will lead many to look again toward the religious citadel of our nation. Will we have anything to say to them?

Guy Henderson is Editor Emeritus of The Baptist Record.

Conf. encourages 'passion for preaching' |

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

"I have been preaching for 37 years and I have never lost my passion for preaching — but it has never gotten any easier," said Brian Harbour, pastor of First Church, Richardson, Texas, at the 1999 Preaching and Worship Conference held May 10-11 at Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

Harbour said he had just been talking with a young pastor in attendance who had been preaching for only two months.

"I don't want to be discouraging, but we have the same struggle: What am I going to preach and how am I going to preach it?" Harbour pointed out.

The veteran preacher, speaking on the subject of how to make Friday's muddle Sunday's miracle, posed three initial suggestions to the 100 pastors and others in attendance:

- Take advantage of conferences like the Preaching and Worship Conference.
- Listen to other preachers.

"You can't get it alone. Listen and learn from what others are doing. Call some preacher you know and ask for some of their tapes," he said.

- Read about leadership, about church growth, but also about preaching.

Jerry Songer, former pastor of First Church, Roswell, Ga., and Central Hills Church, Chattanooga, encouraged pastors to avoid stopping at interruptions that invariably come.

Using the life of David as an example, Songer spoke of the delightful, difficult, depressing, and disappointing interruptions that can come to a minister's life. "You cannot park over the interruptions in your life. You can stop, but you cannot stay," he said.

Dean Register, pastor of the host church, spoke of how to maintain interest in preaching in the post-modern world.

"Do we want people to be motivated and moved by what we say, or do we just want to talk? We must preach so it is



PUTTING PASSION IN PREACHING — Leading the Preaching and Worship Conference at Temple Church, Hattiesburg, on May 10-11 were (from left) Jerry Songer, Newnan, Ga., former pastor First Church, Roswell, Ga., conference/seminar leader; and Brian Harbour, pastor First Church, Richardson, Tex.; Matt Buckles, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department (CAPM); and Keith Gordon, CAPM consultant. (Photo by Carl M. White)

interesting and appealing. Boring preaching ought to be a sin," Register said.

He said there are some things every preacher should do to keep interest high:

- Develop an ear for the culture. "When we listen to our culture, we earn the right to be heard by our culture," he said.

- Have a mind for strategy. "What is the best way for you to hold the attention of your congregation?" Register asked.

"It's different at different places and different times. Whether you speak to one hundred or one thousand doesn't matter. We have to get over our ego stuff and ask, 'What will it take to communicate the gospel in Rome?'" he said.

Register suggested a three-point strategy.

First, he said, have an angle. "The first three minutes of a speech, Calvin Miller calls the 'speech before the speech.'

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THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Partnership needs

The Partnership Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has announced the following needs for volunteers for Ukraine partnership missions projects.

HONDURAS — The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has entered into a two-year partnership with the La Ceiba area of Honduras to build 150 houses for people who lost everything during Hurricane Mitch. There are 24 remaining trips planned for 1999. Volunteers and team leaders are needed for construction and medical/dental teams. Each construction team will have 12 members. Medical/dental teams will have 35 members. Each trip costs \$765 from New Orleans. For a complete schedule of 1999 Honduran mission trips, contact the Partnership Missions Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 398.

MARYLAND/DELEWARE — The Maryland/Delaware Convention has 11 associations with a combined population of 8 million people. These associations have been linked to 16 Mississippi associations whose population is 2.7 million people. Maryland/Delaware churches have submitted 126 different mission projects, grouped in the following categories: computer training, evangelism/outreach, financial, furniture/equipment, leadership training, prayer support, sports camp/camp staff, VBS/resort ministry, youth/campus ministry. Cost varies according to each team.

Associational directors of missions have a listing of these projects. Churches and associations are encouraged to review these requests, form ministry teams, and respond to the requests.

For more information on all partnership ministry opportunities, contact the Partnership Ministry Department at the above address and telephone numbers.



Miss. CP continues rise

Mississippi Baptists gave \$2,498,023 through the Cooperative Program in April, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds.

Gifts for the first third of the year total \$9,705,208, which is \$820,337, or 9.23%, more than that given January through April of 1998.

When compared to the pro rata Cooperative Program budget of \$8,869,297, gifts are ahead \$835,912, or 9.42%.

The pro rata budget is figured by calculating one-twelfth of the total budget of \$26,607,890, and multiplying by the number of months elapsed.

Mississippi Baptist gifts to the Cooperative Program help fund the summer programs at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, including the senior adult conferences, adult leadership training, music leader conferences, and the youth conferences.

SBC CP up for month, year

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for April were up more than 32% and the fiscal year's total more than 8% compared to last year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

For April 1999, CP receipts totaled \$15,741,149 compared to April 1998 of \$11,903,309, an increase of more than \$3.8 million or 32.24%.

For the SBC fiscal year, after seven months, CP gifts total \$98,998,390 compared to the previous year's total of \$91,241,293, an increase of more than \$7.7 million or 8.5%.

Designated gifts for the month of April were \$10,954,707 compared to the same month in 1998 of \$9,193,432, an increase of more than \$1.7 million or 19.16%. For the year to date, designated gifts total \$105,745,818 compared to the previous year of \$104,479,592, an increase of more than \$1.2 million or 1.21%.

Mississippi tops in Bible Drill participation

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi Baptists turned in another banner year for Bible Drills, according to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) consultants who coordinate the annual program.

Don Hicks, preschool/children's consultant in the MBCB Department of Discipleship and Family Ministry (DFM), and Harvey Ellis, DFM youth consultant, reported that the 1999 Bible Drill had an estimated 2,999 participants at the state finals.

When church and association participants were included the total rose to around 3,342.

"Those numbers are not final, but it does give a clear indication of how strong Bible Drill is in our state. Mississippi has been conducting Bible Drills for over 40 years, and each year we have more Bible Drill participants than any other state convention," said Hicks.

Ellis pointed to Alan Oliver, a participant in the Speakers Tournament who missed an important baseball game as a starter for Hamilton High School in order to participate. "I was really encouraged by his example. Mississippi Baptists make Bible Drill a priority."

Retired former DFM director Mose Dangerfield was presented with the "Friend of Bible Drill" award for his years of work on behalf of the Bible Drill program.

"Mose Dangerfield's passion for teaching young children about the Bible, as reflected in his lengthy and continued involvement in the program even after retirement, is one of the reasons Bible Drills have grown in Mississippi," Hicks said.

Dangerfield was presented the award by DFM director Marcus Peagler.

Hicks also pointed out that DFM is making plans to move Bible Drills to an even higher level in the state. Some of the ways the department is considering to accomplish that goal are:

- ◆ Extra training at Gulfshore Assembly, specially tailored for Bible Drill leadership.
- ◆ Providing Bible Drill training in as many associations as DFM is invited to participate.
- ◆ Production of a comprehensive packet of leaflets, introductory materials, and other items — a "one stop" overview of how to organize Bible drills.

Hicks also said DFM has begun promoting Bible Buddies, a LifeWay Christian Resources curriculum that will prepare younger children for Bible Drill participation.

Ellis stressed the importance of the adult volunteers. His mother Kay has been involved as a volunteer for about 20 years, and his father Gowan, retired from the pastorate of First Church, Terry, also volunteered this year.

"Pastors tell us Bible Drill is one of the best programs the state convention has going for it. However, people need to understand that Bible Drill doesn't 'just happen.'"

"It takes hundreds of volunteers to make the program

work, and they are the real heroes. If we are able to take Bible Drill to the next level in Mississippi, it will be because of volunteers," said Ellis.

Ellis encouraged Mississippi Baptists to contact the department with suggestions for moving the Bible Drill program to the next level. "We're praying and thinking on that issue right now, so if anyone has any suggestions we want them to get in touch with us."

Plans are now being formulated for the 2000 Bible Drill season. For more information, Hicks and Ellis can be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

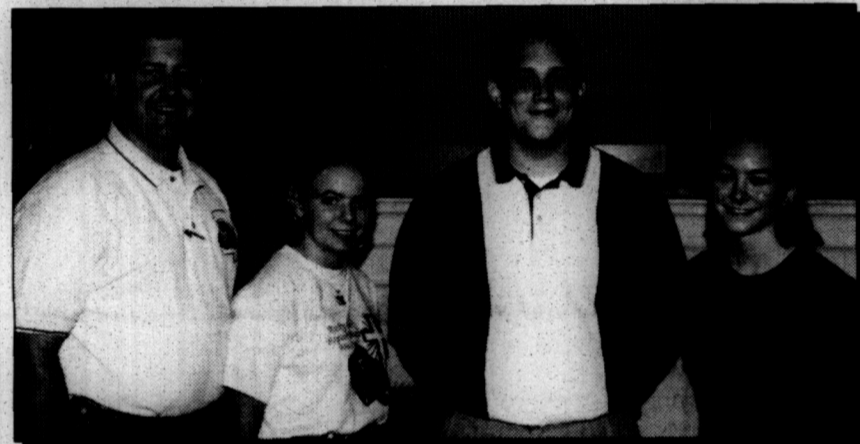


Dangerfield (left), Peagler

1999 SPEAKER'S AWARD FINALISTS — (below, from left) Betty Braden Fisher, First Church, Indianola, (fourth); Matt Treadway, First Church, Clinton, (second); Jeremy Johnson, First Church, Clinton, (first); Karen Howell, Bethel Church, Brandon, (third); Chad Phillips, Miss. College Enrollment Serves Representative. (BR special photos by Cortez Hutchinson)



1999 SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENT NINE-YEAR PARTICIPANTS — (above, from left) Harvey Ellis, DFM youth consultant; Mandy Tilley, Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, (third); Grace Thornton, Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, (first); Tim Powell, Ellistown Church, Blue Springs, (second).



1999 STATE SELECTION FINALISTS (JR. HIGH) — (from left) Maegan Smith, Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, (third); Peter Young, Hope Church, Philadelphia, (first); Jennifer Sandborg, First Church, Long Beach (second).

'Vessels' video magazine scheduled for release May 25

A new edition of Vessels: A Video Magazine of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), will be released May 25, according to Farrell Blankenship, director of the MBCB Broadcast Services Department.

Vessels is a 30-minute video program hosted by Roland and Lisa Leavell of First Church, Jackson. Churches are encouraged to show all or part of Vessels to Sunday School classes,

mission groups, in Wednesday prayer meeting, or in morning/evening worship services. Segments in this edition of Vessels are:

- Baldwin: A Little Joy in Colorado
- Who are these Mississippi Baptists?
- Disaster Relief: Blessings on Wheels
- People Reach Expo: Ideas for Sharing
- Fishers of Men (and Fish)
- How to Become a Christian

Vessels is shown on local cable system and ACTS networks throughout the state. A listing of stations, times, and dates will appear in a future issue of The Baptist Record.

For more information about Vessels contact Blankenship at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



FRONT PORCH EVANGELISM — S. A. "Sonny" Adkins, director of evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, sits on the front porch of the country store at the Jim Buck Ross Agricultural Museum in Jackson, while sharing how to become a Christian for videographer Don Warren of Warren Productions. The one-minute witness is part of the new edition of Vessels: a Video Magazine, to be released May 25 by MBCB. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Vessels

IMB: Prayer calendar changes necessary

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The need to protect missionaries in sensitive assignments made a recent change in the missionary prayer calendar necessary, said International Mission Board (IMB) president Jerry Rankin.

Generations of mission-minded Southern Baptists have prayed for missionaries on their birthdays, using prayer calendars printed in materials published by Woman's Missionary Union and LifeWay Christian Resources. Those prayer calendars listed missionaries' names and the countries in which they served.

Current calendars, however, list missionaries according to the IMB region in which they serve. Each region covers anywhere from a half-dozen to more than two dozen countries. The IMB removed references to specific countries to protect missionary security and to reflect dramatic changes in the way missionaries work overseas today.

While he understands the frustrations of intercessors accustomed to knowing the country to which a missionary is assigned, two pressing issues forced the IMB to list missionaries only by region, Rankin said.

First, Southern Baptist workers today are sharing the gospel in places hostile to Christian missionaries. Publicly identifying those workers and the places they serve as IMB missionaries would jeopardize their safety and ministry, and expose believers in those places to danger. There

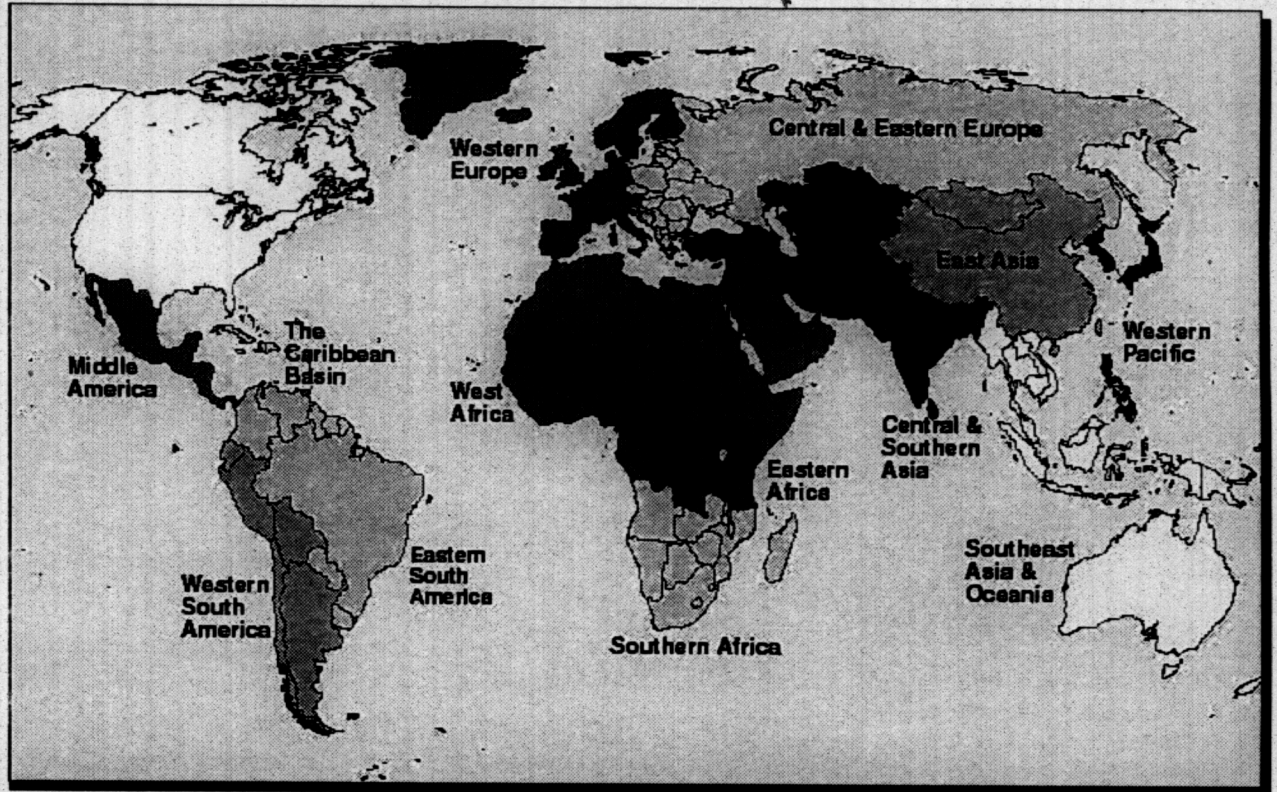
are, in fact, some IMB workers whose assignments are so sensitive they are not listed at all in the prayer calendar.

Second, the board has shifted its focus from working in countries to working among ethnic people groups. These "people group teams" are not restricted to working in any one country, and the place a missionary lives may have little to do with his or her work, Rankin said. While 4,570 IMB missionaries live in 126 countries, they are involved in strategies reaching more than 336 people groups in 184 countries.

Mission supporters can compensate by leading their churches to adopt missionary families so sensitive information can be shared without having to resort to published media, Rankin said.

To order a world map showing how IMB work is divided among 14 regions, e-mail a request to resource.center@imb.org, or call toll-

free (800) 866-3621. Please be specific in requesting the IMB Regional World Map. Information on adopting an IMB missionary can be obtained by e-mailing Susan Lawton at susan.lawton@imb.org or calling toll-free (800) 362-1322.



THE BEST OF OLD AND NEW

Driving across the state, my radio became "staticky" and I began punching the "seek" button. The scanner stopped at a strong station that said, "We are (call letters), providing only the best in music of the new and the old." Sure enough, they played an old song with a familiar sound and some good memories. The next song was on the "new" charts and happened to be one I liked, so I listened and drove on, but in the background I was thinking, "Only the best of the old and the new." That's good, because old songs can have a lot of good attached to them, and new songs can be appealing and creative.

As I traveled down the highway in dialogue with myself, the "old" part of my brain began talking to the "newer" part of my brain. I thought about discussions that go on in church circles these days regarding worship and music.

It seems as though some



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

folks want to think that either the "old" is the only way to do it, or only the "new" is the way worship ought to be expressed.

It is interesting to look at the things we have discussed, argued, and become deeply emotional about through the years. I can recall hearing a fine old preacher expound on why it is evil for a church to have a kitchen! I also remember a dear old pastor explaining why we should not have baptistries in the church, but rather should baptize believers in a stream or river. His reasoning was, if we are to be true to the word of God, new

believers should be baptized like Jesus — in "running water." Both of these men were serious, good, and, I believe, godly men, and both of them believed that these particular perceived evils would be another step in the downfall of the church.

I think it is important that we remember God is the God of "ongoing" creativity. He does not change the message and we do not change the principles of Scripture, but God is at work in his people and they have new, interesting, and fresh ways of expressing their praise to him.

Just outside my office win-

dow I have watched from day to day as a huge Magnolia tree put on one beautiful blossom after another. The tree is old. In fact, I would guess that it must be 25-35 years old, yet all over the circumference of that tree are beautiful, white, new, never-before-seen Magnolia blooms.

It's a "new thing" to an "old tree," and it's gorgeous! To do away with the tree is to destroy. To miss the fresh, new blossoms is to miss the recent splendor of God among us.

The other feature that I would interject into this concern is simple, biblical, Godly sensitivity. It is a spirit of flexibility and openness that allows us to be us, to be different, and to appreciate in others what we may not appreciate otherwise.

Paul describes in Galatians 5:22 the kind of demeanor that will fit the Christian's life when he or she is possessed by the Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness — but where the fruit of the Spirit is absent, you can back up a verse or two and find that he describes what is exhibited in our lives: wrath, strife, envyings. You get the picture.

The "best of the old" and the "best of the new" is not just an effort to satisfy the various segments in a congregation. It should be the efforts on the part of each one of us to satisfy the Lord who we have come to love and worship.

Tourney volunteers needed

Golden Triangle Association in Columbus is in urgent need of volunteers for the U.S. Women's Open Golf Championship to be held May 31-June 6 at Old Waverly Country Club in West Point.

"It appears 100,000 people will come to West Point for this international event. The request is for youth age 14-up, and adult men and women. These persons will give greetings, directions, and helpful information," said Bill Duncan, Golden Triangle Association director of missions.

There will be three shifts per day, Duncan said, with 40 openings on each shift. Volunteers who work a three-to four-hour shift will receive a free pass to the golf course.

For more information and shift schedules, contact Duncan at (662) 328-6802; fax: (662) 328-1889; e-mail: gtba@tilc.com.

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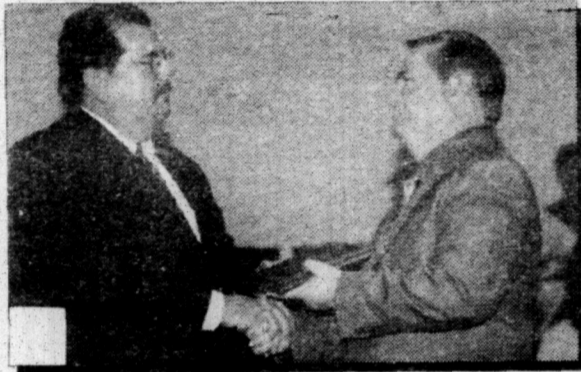


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NAMES IN THE NEWS



Stephens and Crawford



Bufkin and Stephens

Allen Stephens, director of missions for Rankin Association, and Betty Crawford, secretary at Rankin Association were recently honored for their years of service. Tommy Bufkin, moderator, presented to Stephens a plaque for serving as director for five years. Stephens presented Crawford a plaque commemorating her 10 years of service.

James E. Whittington is now available for interim, supply and other ministries. He can be contacted at 2762 Brookwood Drive, Jackson, MS 39212 or call (601) 373-4975.

Pheba Church, Pheba, honored James Parker of Farmerville, La., with a plaque and fellowship lunch for his 40 years of preaching the gospel. This event was special in that



Parker and Dampeer

March 14, 1959, Parker preached his first sermon in Pheba Church. Pictured, (from left) are Parker and Charles Dampeer, interim pastor.

Lucy Harrison was honored on



Pass Road Church, Gulfport, elected eight new deacons, five of which were ordained on April 7. Pictured (from left) are Dean Thames, Jason Walters, Allen Yeager, Ronald Groce; (top) Bill Butler, Calvin Stewart, Bruce Strain, and Warren Russell. Edgar Jackson is pastor.

April 15 at O'Tuckolofa Church by Yalobusha Association for her years of service in the Woman's Missionary Union. She was presented a plaque by her pastor, Daniel Hathorne of First Church, Coffeeville, and a dozen red roses by Terry Brown, director of missions, Yalobusha Association. Marjean Patterson, retired Mississippi WMU executive director-treasurer, was the guest speaker. Pictured (from left) are Harrison and Patterson.

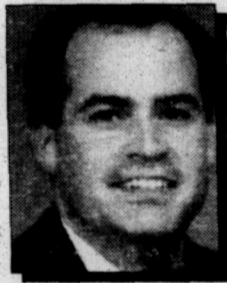


Harrison and Patterson

STAFF CHANGES

Ackerman Church, Ackerman, has called Ron Harrison as pastor effective April 18. A native of Meridian, Harrison received his education at Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Union Church, Picayune.

State Boulevard Church, Meridian, has called Kevin Jones as pastor effective April 25. A native of Forest, Jones received his education at Mississippi College, New Orleans Seminary, and a doctor of ministry degree from



Jones

Reformed Theological Seminary. Churches he previously served are Tinsley, Tinsley; Standing Pine, Walnut Grove; Benton, Benton; and First, Soso.

First Church, Poplarville, has called Marvin Miller as full-time minister of music and youth, effective May 23. Miller has served First Church since January 1998 as part-time minister of music. A graduate of

William Carey College, Miller is a music degree student at New Orleans Seminary.

Mt. Vernon Church, Columbus, has called Jeff James as pastor. He previously served at Adaton Church, Starkville.

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1999 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions

Did your church meet or exceed the AAEO goal? The Baptist Record wants to know!

Please send us your church's goal and the amount by which the goal was exceeded. A list will be published in the



tion of the newspaper.

Send the information to Editor, The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Fax: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: missrecord@aol.com. No telephone calls, please.



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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 20, 1999

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



Guest Speaker

Roy Edgemon, director of Discipleship and Family Ministry, LifeWay Christian Resources



Guest Musicians

Gordon and Donna Alford, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Vancleave

1999 Growing Churches Conferences

Equipping Church Leaders for the 21st Century

Growing Churches Through Discipleship July 29-31

Seminars on total church growth with an emphasis on Discipleship and Family Ministry.

Growing Churches Through Bible Study August 6-7

Seminars on total church growth with an emphasis on Sunday School.

Both Growing Churches conferences include:

Six Study Sessions led by Specialists

representing

Discipleship and Family Ministry, Sunday School, Men's Ministry, WMU, Pastoral Ministry, Evangelism, Church Media Library, Missions Extension and Stewardship.

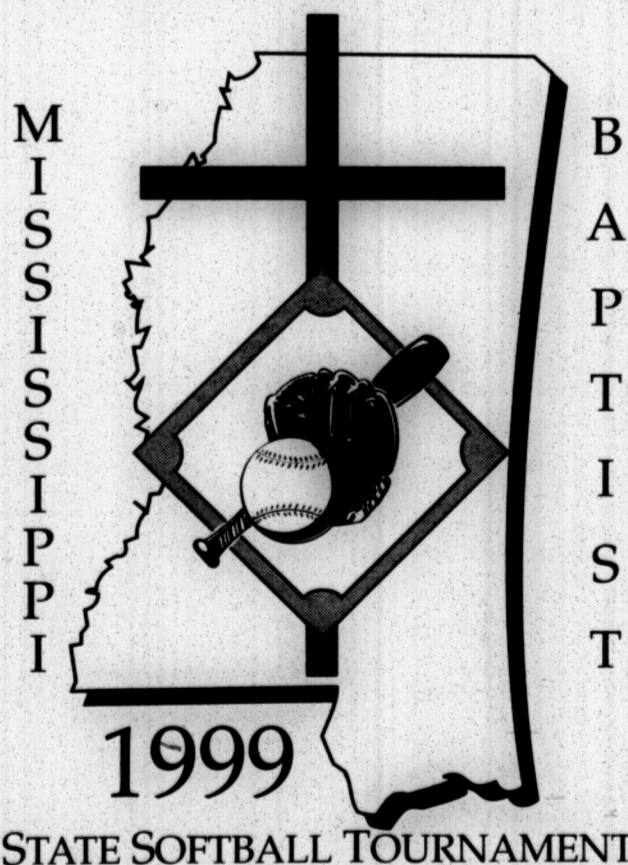
Dynamic Worship Services

- Special guest worship leaders for the Discipleship weekend include Roy Edgemon and Gordon and Donna Alford
- The Bible Study conference will feature multimedia and the use of creative worship

Each conference is a presentation of the Equipping Team-MBCB

- † TeamKID Clubs for All Children
- † TeamKID Clubs for Older Preschoolers
- † Demonstration Lab School for Younger Preschoolers
- † Discipling Bible Study for Youth
- † Family Time on Friday Afternoons
- † Fellowship Time on the Pier Friday Evening

For reservation information, contact Frank Simmons, manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299, Tel: (228) 452-7261, Fax: (228) 452-7263



State Softball Tournament

The dates have been set for our 1999 tournaments. We will follow the same format as last year which allowed us to have three (3) state tournaments. The dates are as follows:

	SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	DATE
Class A	0-300	July 23-24
Class AA	301-700	July 30-31
Class AAA	701 and above	August 13-14

NOTE: A team may choose to play up in a class but not down.

Please help us spread the word to churches and teams about the dates. In mid-May we will mail our rules and entry forms. Write or call for more information.

Tom Prather
Men's Ministry Department, MBCB
Tournament Director
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205
Office: 1-800-748-1651
1-601-968-3800
Home: 1-601-992-8981



Gary Permenter
Worship Leader



Kevin Williams
Music Worship Leader

Super Summer '99 July 19-23

Mississippi College & FBC, Clinton

Super Summer Mississippi is for the young person who is a mature and responsible Christian leader. Super Summer may not be for your entire group. Mississippi College and FBC, Clinton, are the hosts for Super Summer, July 19-23. Young people attending Super Summer Mississippi spend approximately 20 hours in evangelism and discipleship training. Quality youth leaders from our state lead our youth in study. Youth are trained in how to share their faith, how to have a quiet time, how to memorize scripture, how to find God's will for their lives, and more. They are also challenged and equipped to utilize their talents to penetrate their culture for Christ in a creative and effective way. Throughout Super Summer young people are encouraged to use the freedom they have in Christ to change the world.

Financial Requirements

The total cost for Super Summer during the registration period is **\$145** per student and adult; amount includes food, housing in the school dormitory, materials, and T-shirt.

Due to construction at Mississippi College **SPACE WILL BE LIMITED THIS YEAR**. Registration begins **April 19 and ends June 30**. Students registering by June 30 are guaranteed a Super Summer T-shirt.

Students registering after **June 30** will be subject to a **\$25 (per person) late registration fee. NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER JULY 8.**

Guidelines for all SS candidates

1. Demonstrates leadership qualities and is a growing Christian.
2. Faithful involvement in worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday night youth activities.
3. Complete at least one level of a discipleship study (i.e. Survival Kit, DiscipleYouth, DiscipleNow...).
4. Memorized a minimum of 10 scripture verses relating to discipleship, evangelism, or a disciple study.
5. Share their personal testimony with the youth group.
6. Share the Gospel with at least one person this year.
7. Completed at least the 8th grade in 1999, but not yet in college.
8. Agree to attend all SS sessions.

For more info call the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800.

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY FESTIVAL

(two locations)

Saturday

June 5

(No admission fee)

Aiken Village

Starkville

(College View Street)

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



- International Food Service • Moon Walk
- Face Painting

Continuous Program with:
Juggling Dave Finnigan Family
Korean Children's Choir
Puppets, Music, Clowns

Woodland Hills Baptist Church
Jackson, 7 - 9 p.m.

with Korean and Spanish joint fellowship with refreshments and Juggling Finnigan Family.
Sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

Mississippi Acteens Convention

"Clay In Need of a Potter's Hand"

Alta Woods Baptist Church
Jackson

July 23-25

Tentative Schedule & Highlights:

FRIDAY

7 p.m. Youth Night at Miss. Coliseum
10 p.m. - 1 a.m. Rapids Water Park

SATURDAY

8:45 a.m. - 4 p.m. & 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Missions Celebrations, Acteens conferences, missionary maze, on-site ministry project

SUNDAY

8-9:30 Missions Celebration

Cost: \$24

(includes program fee, Rapids Water Park, and lunch on Saturday)

For more info: Robin Keels, GAs/Acteens/Camp Ministries

Consultant

1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

NIGHT '99

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midnight

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For Further Information, Contact: • Neil R. Jones, Youth Night Coordinator, 2000 743rd Avenue, Suite 2000 • 601-968-3800

MINISTRY



2000

CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY

Church Media Library Week July 29-31

During Growing Churches Through Discipleship

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly Pass Christian, Mississippi

Conferences led by Beth Hensley:

- **Classification Systems for Church Libraries**
- **Choosing Sears Subject Headings**

Beth Hensley is a Special Worker, Lifeway Christian Resources, Church Media Program, Nashville, Tenn. Beth is the church media library director at her church, First Baptist Church, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. She is president of the State Media Library Annual Conference and active in her associational TACMO organization.

Conferences led by Hope Winter:

- **Y2K Opportunities for Church Media Libraries**
- **Creating Promotion... That Communicates**

Hope Winter is a Special Worker, Lifeway Christian Resources, Church Media Program, Nashville, Tenn. Hope is church media library director at the home church, Temple BC, Ruston, Louisiana; Media Library Director of Concord Baptist Association, Louisiana, and a writer for the Christian Media Journal, the national magazine for church media librarians.

**All reservations must be made directly with
GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY.
Call 228-452-7261 for reservations.**

WMU/Habitat Community Project

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COMMUNITY MINISTRY PROJECT

- Sports Camps
- Medical Clinics
- Legal Seminars
- Park Revival
- Door-to-Door Evangelism
- Neighborhood Bible Clubs

RAISING MONEY FOR HOUSES

Mississippi WMU is raising funds to build two Habitat for Humanity houses in Jackson. Each of these houses will cost \$20,000 to build. Therefore Mississippi WMU needs to raise \$40,000 to fund the building of both homes.

\$10	a floor joist	\$50	an interior door
\$20	a 50 lb. box of nails	\$75	8 sheets of wallboard
\$25	a roof truss	\$100	3 boxes of flooring material
\$40	5 gallons of paint	\$250	50 bundles of roof shingles

For more info, contact
Tammy Anderson, WMU, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

Pray this day for...

May 21- June 3, 1999

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

The God Who Answers Prayer

"I praise and honor You, Father, because You are a God who loves to answer prayer and who begins to answer even before I pray."

(Isaiah 65:24)

Pray that God will make evident the "person of peace" (Luke 10:6) in the small town of Yerbos Buenas, Chile. Missionaries serving on the Central Valley Harvest Team are consistently prayerwalking in this town.

One hundred eighty-six or more people in the United States are not saved. Pray that we will see the urgency of the situation, share God's plan of salvation so that they can be rescued from the threatening fires of hell.

For III Senior Adult Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (Discipleship & Family Ministry). Ask God to give wisdom to the new president of the Cambodia Baptist Convention. Pray also for unity among Baptist work in Cambodia.

For I Youth Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (Mississippi Baptist Convention Board). Continue to pray for preparations that are being made to evangelize Atlanta, Ga., during Crossover Atlanta, just prior to the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

Christian students from throughout the U.S. will converge on China this summer to share Christ through many different means and in many different locations and projects. Ask God to cover them with protection during the time of preparation and witness.

Tom Martin is an associational church planter strategist for the Bay Area Baptist Association, Midland, Mich. Pray for ministries that the association wants to begin this summer. Pray that an Anglo work will be started in Gladwin County, where there is no Southern Baptist work.

Pray for ISC workers Gene and Jean Phillips in Lesotho as they witness. We prayed for them while abducted and released in February. They shared with their neighbors how the Lord had helped them in answer to prayer. Now, a neighbor told them that their testimony made him want to know Jesus. Now, he wants his whole family to know Jesus.

Pray for our national political leaders. Some of them include the president, vice president, cabinet members, senators from Miss., congressional representatives from your district, and the Supreme Court justices.

God has answered prayer for missionaries Tom and Cynthia Martin by helping them locate two tutors for studying the language of the Guarayo people in Bolivia. Ask the Lord to give them clear minds for hearing and understanding the Guarayo language.

For All-State Youth Rehearsal Camp & Tour, William Carey College (Church Music Dept). Pray for Mississippi Baptist volunteer groups who will go help churches in Maryland/Delaware with construction projects, Vacation Bible Schools, etc. this summer.

For African American Church Leadership Institute, New Testament Baptist Mission, Hattiesburg (Missions Extension & Associational Administration)

ISC worker Stephen Deese had problems in dealing with a blanket dealer, in Albania, over miscounted money. In a confrontation over this and being told that he was accountable to God, this man started crying. The next morning the dealer came by with the money, admitting his mistake. Pray that everyone on the relief team will have many opportunities for evangelism.

Pray for the South East Chinese Retreat May 28-30 at Shocco Springs Conference Center, Talledega, Ala. About 600 Chinese attended last year and quite a number made professions of faith. Around 50 people from the Chinese Christian Fellowship of First Baptist Church, Jackson, plan to attend this year.

For Single Adult Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (Discipleship & Family Ministry). Thank God that the yellow fever epidemic in Bolivia has diminished. Pray for the health of the Martin family and Trey Wooten as they live and work in the jungle area.

Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!

01-98
MR. BRADLEY CURTIS
B.P. 130, Tenkodogo, BURKINA FASO
Parents: Clifton & Cathy, Agriculture

2-83
MISS ALAINA BAKER
Apartado 61-74, Guadalajara, Jalisco 44360, MEXICO
Parents: Kenneth & Lynn, Dentistry

2-83
MISS SARAH METTS
1611 Florence-Byram Road, Florence, MS 39073
Parents: Joe Jr. & Angela, General Evangelism
SERVE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

3-85
MISS HEATHER BROWN
P O Box 30018, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, MALAWI
Parents: John & Claudia, General Evangelism

4-83
MISS TABITHA FOX
Visanaia Biserica Baptist, Str. sf. Nicolae 80., Beltsy 279200, MOLDOVA
Parents: Thomas & Tammy, General Evangelism

11-83
BENJAMIN JONES
4, bis Grande Rue, 54420 Saulxures-les-Nancy, FRANCE
Parents: Michael & Pamela, Church Starting

11-87
MISS ANDREA HENDRICKS
1090 Meadow Heights Drive, Jackson, MS 39206
Parents: Larry & Mary, General Evangelism
SERVE IN MIDDLE AMERICA

13-85
MISS RACHEL GRAVES
442 Cummins Street, Jackson, MS 39204
Parents: Edgar & Marilyn, General South America

13-89
MR. JOSHUA BROWN
P O Box 30018, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, MALAWI
Parents: John & Claudia, General Evangelist
17-80

MISS HANNA SONG
431 Tee Street, Biloxi, MS 39532
Parents: Woong Ho & Sook Ja, Field Personnel Assistance

20-87
Mr. Andrew Bailey
Box GUA 746, 8424 NW 56th Street, Miami, FL 33166
Parents: Alvin & Elizabeth, Music Promotion
SERVE IN MIDDLE AMERICA

20-87
MR. MAX HUTCHISON
B.P. 8417 Yoff, Dakar, Senegal, WEST AFRICA
Parents: Michael & Lynn, Church Planters

20-93
MR. CHRISTOPHER CHURTIS
B.P. 130, Tenkodogo, BURKINA FASO
Parents: Clifton & Cathy, Agriculture

26-78
MR. VINCENT JOHNSTON
P O Box 4923, Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: Vincent & Sharon, Conference/Encampment
SERVE IN EASTERN SOUTH AMERICA

28-97
MR. JACOB BUSH
B.P. 15, Kenieba, MALI
Parents: Karl & Lena, Community Outreach/Enco.

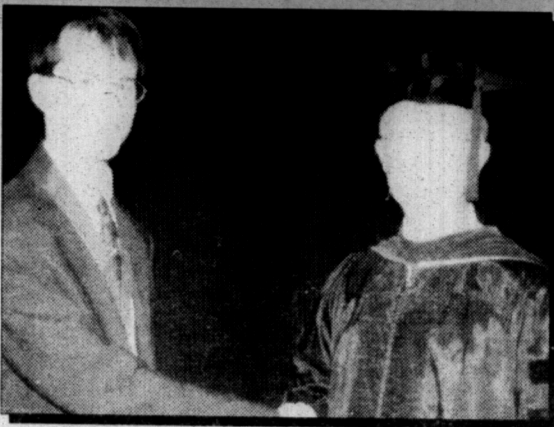
30-80
MR. NATHAN COLLINS
3326 Farragut St., #E, Hollywood, FL 33021
Parents: Charles & Suzanne, Business Management
SERVE IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN

30-82
MISS ASHLEY PEVEY
2182 Hwy 446, Skene, MS 38730
Parents: Frank & Jerry Anne, Mission Administration
SERVE IN EASTERN AFRICA



BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

William Carey College students were recently honored at the 1999 Honors Day Convocation held on campus. Pictured (from left) are Andrew Puckett of Hattiesburg, recipient of the J. E. Byrd Memorial Award for Outstanding Religion Major award, and Dorman Laird, professor of religion.



Puckett and Laird

William Carey College held separate graduation ceremonies for students receiving graduate degrees and for students receiving baccalaureate degrees. Approximately 200 students received degrees at the commencement exercises held on May 15. The speaker was Dorman Laird, native of Tylertown, who has served as professor of religion since 1968. Approximately 75 students received graduate degrees at ceremonies held on May 14. William Hetrick, dean of the

school of education and psychology, served as the graduate commencement speaker.

William Carey College students were recently honored at the 1999 Honors Day Convocation held on campus. Pictured (from left) are Milton Wheeler, professor of history, awarded Wesley Keyes (right) of Ellisville, with the Allen Williams Award. The award is given to the athlete who shows Christian character and leadership abilities and is named in memory of Allen Williams of Petal, a former member of the Crusader baseball team.



Wheeler and Keyes

Staying Well Informed

Childhood Asthma: Serious but Manageable

Jamie was one miserable 9-year-old. He found himself often short of breath, even when he had not been out playing. The situation seemed to worsen each year, especially in the spring, when Jamie could not even ride his bike without having to stop frequently to catch his breath. His parents were concerned, and a physician diagnosed his condition as asthma.

Asthma is caused by inflammation of the bronchial tubes which carry air to the lungs. Asthma causes the muscles of the bronchial walls to tighten, producing extra mucus. The combined effects of these conditions include difficulty breathing, wheezing, tightness in the chest and coughing. The National Institutes of Health estimates that asthma affects about 3 million children nationwide.

Although studies have linked asthma to a number of factors, including increased air pollution, proliferation of dust mites and other pests, as well as over-reaction of the body's immune system, a clear cause of asthma has not been discovered. But parents can take actions which may decrease the risk to children, such as removing asthma-triggering substances and making sure the child sees an asthma specialist regularly.

Like Jamie, children with asthma find their play is often restricted, leading to feelings of being "left-out." Fortunately, knowing what causes attacks and how to respond to them can make most activities permissible for kids with asthma. To help kids learn about their condition and have fun at the same time, Baptist is partnering with the American Lung Association of Mississippi and the Mississippi Asthma Collaborative to hold Camp Wheez-Away, September 24-26, at Twin Lakes Conference Center in Florence. At this exciting camp, kids ages 9-12 with asthma can enjoy a variety of activities and learning opportunities designed with them in mind. Medical specialists will be on hand to provide supervision. Registration for Camp Wheez-Away will be taken until July 15, and must be signed by a physician. For more information, call 601-362-5453 or 800-737-5453.

Understanding the Benefits of Childhood Asthma Awareness

For more information, call the Baptist Health Line at 1-800-948-6262.

Baptist
HEALTH SYSTEMS

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REVIVAL DATES

High Hill (Neshoba): May 21-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Mike Smith, Philadelphia, evangelist; Ray Files, pastor.

Shiloh Church, Carroll County: May 30-June 2; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m. service, followed by dinner at the church and afternoon singing; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; George Smith, director of missions, Carroll-Montgomery Association, guest minister; Doug Warren, pastor, music.

Whitesand, Prentiss: May 23-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Michael Adams, Jasper, Ala., evangelist; John Yates, Clinton, music; Stan Cheatham, pastor.

First Church of Lizana, Gulfport: May 22-26; Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Lyndon Glaesman, evangelist; Levi A. Helmuth, pastor.

Morgantown, Natchez: May 23-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Farmhaven, Canton: May 21-23; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; lunch following morning service; Charles Gentry, pastor, evangelist; R.L. and Beth Sigrest, music.

County Line of Dossville, Carthage: June 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Cook, Carthage, evangelist; Johnnie Doude, McCool, music; Mark Pilgrim, pastor.

Pinola, Pinola: June 6-9; Sunday, homecoming; Tom Littlejohn, evangelist.

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Petal Church, Hattiesburg, MS
Petal Church, Natchez, MS
East McCook Church, McCook, MS

at EASTHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday, May 23, 1999 at 6:00 P.M.

Guest Worship Leader will be
Graham Smith, Director of Church Music Department
of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Mississippi College (MC) Office of Continuing Education will offer the LSAT Review Course for the June 14 test. The course will be held June 1, 6-10 p.m.; June 3, 6-10 p.m.; and June 5, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The deadline is May 28. MC will also offer review courses for the

ACT Assessment and four review sessions in preparation for the June 12 test date. For more information, call Mary Lea Nations at (601) 925-3264.

Commencement ceremonies, closing the 173rd academic session at Mississippi College (MC), were held May 8. Degrees were conferred on approximately 460 candidates. Harry Upton, chief administrative officer for Chase Manhattan Investment Services, gave the commencement address. Upton is a 1962 graduate of MC and is originally from Laurel. MC conferred two honorary degrees during the commencement ceremonies. John Stanley Hattox Jr. received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. Zachary Taylor Hederman Sr. received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. John Meadors, associate professor of philosophy was awarded the 1999 Distinguished Professor of the Year award by Alpha Chi student honor society and the Faculty Club. The D.M. Nelson Award, given to the graduate with the highest overall average, was awarded to

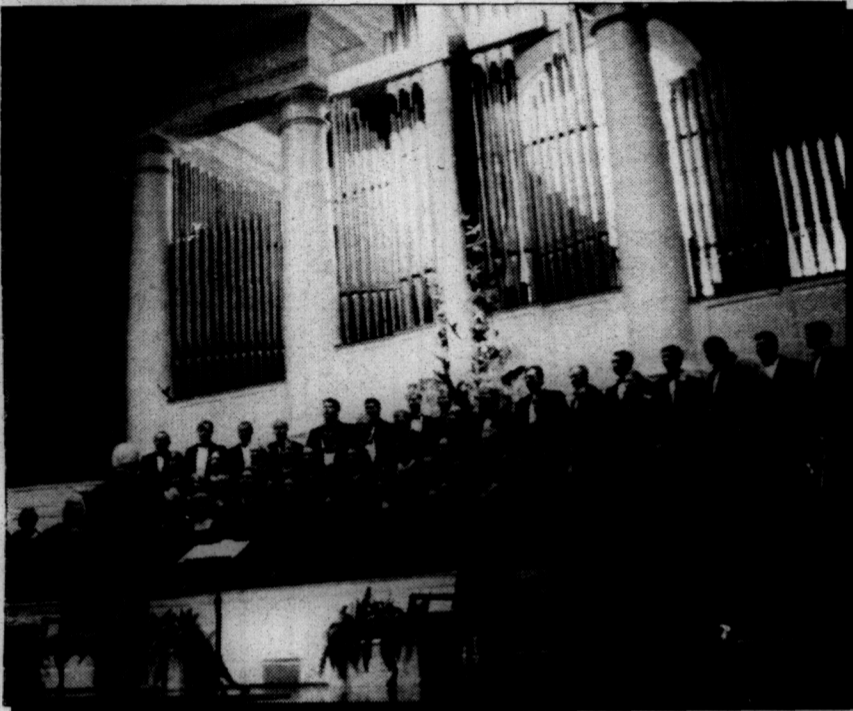
James Andrew Gibson of Brandon. The W. O. Sadler Award, given to the transfer student graduate with the highest overall average, was awarded to Julie Marie Dollar of Brandon.

Thirty-seven students from William Carey College (WCC) received the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges recognition as national outstanding leaders. Students named this year from WCC's Hattiesburg campus are: Mary Barnes, Hattiesburg; Misty Burge, Purvis; Callie Carruth, McComb; Carrie Cartier, Saraland, Ala.; Cathy Clark, Hattiesburg; Christina Crawford, Gautier; Rebecca Dockens, Gulfport; Summers Dunaway, Hattiesburg; Mike Farnham, Laurel; Amanda Hughes, Louisville, Ky.; Kristi Kelley, Clinton; Susan Kennedy, Hattiesburg; Christopher Lee, Hattiesburg; Paul Lee, Pensacola, Fla.; Laura Lindsey, Pensacola, Fla.; Brian Lucas, Petal; Heather Lucey, Hattiesburg; Diana Ravencraft, Tylertown; Karen Seasmans,

Livingston, La.; Shane Sims, Florence; Karen Smith, McComb; Rebecca Stewart, Laurel; Gini Sykes, Hattiesburg; Mark Thompson, Purvis; and Jennifer West, Laurel.

Students from WCC Coast campus are: Raye Lynn Arbo, Slidell, La.; Ashley Cronenberg, Mobile, Ala.; Alison Deming, Brandon; Larue Hatten, Picayune; Jonathan May, Gulfport; Lisa Milhollin, Ocean Springs; Allyson Pannell, Canada; Christopher Pryor, Pass Christian; Paul Tilton, Biloxi; and Kenneth Wawter, Gulfport.

Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education, in conjunction with the Department of Music, will present a Kodaly Workshop. Kodaly is one of the most famous music teaching methods in the world. Classes will meet Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., during the weeks of July 19 and 26. A \$100 non-refundable deposit along with a completed application is due no later than June 18. For more information, call Krisi Lee at (601) 925-3301.



William Carey College Chorale, under the direction of Milfred Valentine and accompanist Kathy Vail, performed during chapel services at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) on March 30. Later in the evening, they joined with the seminary chorus, a community choir made up of members from Greater New Orleans area churches, and the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra in presenting Requiem by Maurice Durufle. The concert, under the director of Kenneth J. Gabrielse, chairman of the NOBTS division of church music ministries, was held in historic St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans. Featured were soprano soloist Patricia Collier, instructor of voice at NOBTS, and baritone soloist Marvin Miller, an NOBTS student serving at First Church, Poplarville.

VBS dates set

Leaf, Smith County: June 7-11; 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.; children preschool age through 6th grade; commencement, June 14, 11 a.m. with lunch to follow.

New Hope, Foxworth: June 7-11; 8:30-11:30 a.m.; for more information, call the church at (601) 736-6511.

Baptist Memorial Health Care (BMHC), Memphis, Tenn., through a grant from the BMHC Foundation, will sponsor a stroke awareness program at Metropolitan Baptist Church, 767 Walker Ave., South Memphis. May 16 at 4 p.m. Immediately following the program, staff from BMHC and the American Heart Association will provide free stroke screenings, which take only a few minutes to complete. For more information on Stroke Awareness Month activities, call (901) 227-5001.

Westwood Church, Meridian, will celebrate its 50th anniversary June 13 at 10:30 a.m. Covered dish meal will be served in fellowship hall at noon. Guest speakers are David R. Mitchell Jr., Monticello, Ark., and Wade Allen, Pontotoc. Others on program will be Paul Bird and the Brad Jones Family. Other activities include afternoon hymn sing. Richard D. Davis is pastor.

Hardy Church, Grenada, will present W. Elmo Mercer of Nashville, Tenn., in concert on May 26 at 7 p.m.

Leaf River Church, Smith County, will have its 150th anniversary on Sept. 12. Help is needed to provide information about the early days of the church. For more information, call Buel McNeil at (601) 789-5222; Wayne Culliver at 789-5575; or Ann Lancaster Stephens at 789-5645. The annual cemetery association meeting will be held on June 14 at 2 p.m.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

VAIDEN BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a Minister of Youth and Activities. Send resume to Mr. Drew Lenard or Bro. Leon Holly, P.O. Box 398, Vaiden, MS 39176, 601-464-5664.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC, Bethesda Baptist Church, 13628 Midway Road, Terry, MS 39170. Inquiries to Ina Worthy, Personnel Committee, 15920 Midway Road, Terry, MS 39170.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH, Bethesda Baptist Church, 13628 Midway Road, Terry, MS 39170. Inquiries to Ina Worthy, Personnel Committee, 15920 Midway Road, Terry, MS 39170.

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GOSPEL PIANO CASSETTES. Instrumental favorites! Free brochure! Jacky Campbell, 11 Clifford, Natchez, MS 39120.

WANTED: YOUTH MINISTER. Growing church. Send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Idlewild & Hanson Street, Easton, MD. 21601.

GROUPS - CALL KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT, Eureka Springs, Ark, for front seats at The Great Passion Play, plus lodging, recreation, and meals, all for just \$35.00 each! Free information - 501-253-8418.

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HOMEcomings

Friendship, Brookhaven: May 30; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal will be served in fellow-

ship hall followed by afternoon service; Wiley Reid, former pastor, speaker; Jimmy Houston, pastor.

Roundaway, Doddsville (Sunflower): May 30; services, 10:45 a.m.; Max Holleyman, guest speaker; dinner on the

grounds at noon; 1:15 p.m., Frank and Linda Madden, music; Gayden Harrell, pastor.

Concord, Meadville: May 23; services start at 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 1:15 p.m. singing; Mike Howell, speaker;

New Zion, Crystal Springs: May 23; regular Sunday School; 11 a.m. service; Johnny Lee Taylor, former member and commissioned by New Zion Church, will be the speaker; dinner on the grounds.

First, Boyle: May 30; services, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon followed by gospel singing; Harvey Webb, guest pastor; Joe Anderson, pastor.

New Bethlehem, Mendenhall: May 30; services begin at 10:30 a.m.; lunch served followed by afternoon singing; Fred Womack, guest speaker; Mike Sellers, music; Pete Pearson, pastor.

Heucks Retreat, Brookhaven: May 30; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds at noon; 1:30 p.m., memorial service and gospel music; Ken Kirk, pastor.

Liberty, Jefferson (Carroll): June 6; 10:45 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; 1:30 p.m. singing; Marion Gray, Edgemont, S.D., speaker; Riley Ainsworth, pastor.

Clarke alumni meet April 17

The Clarke College alumni homecoming was held April 17 at Calvary Church, Newton.

James E. Griffith, Clarke Alumni Association president, said the association adopted a project to offer for sale 48- by 65-inch four-color tapestry afghans with pictures of all present buildings, the former classroom building, the sign, the Lottie Moon Star, and other items of interest. The afghans will sell for \$50 each, and should be ready for distribution by the time of the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention in October, he said.

"There must be a minimum order of 200. The committee needs reservations now. Checks should be made payable to the Clarke Alumni Association, P. O. Box 493, Newton, MS 39345," added Griffith.

For more information, call Sarah Fox at (601) 774-5274 or Marion Thornton, (601) 656-2911.

After the business session, association vice-president Juanita West led Memorial Moments for those of the Clarke family who had died since the last meeting. Among those remembered was W. L. Compere, former president of the college.



Ron M. Howler, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

My parents have filed a lawsuit to get access to my eight-year-old child. I was molested and beaten for years by my father, and I'm beginning to panic. Should I just disappear into hiding with my child?

Disappearing will not help you or your child, as you'll still be running from your past. If you run, your father's influence is still chasing you and he has some control over your life. Frankly, it sounds as if you have a "good" case against your parents; you should talk with a lawyer and find out your rights. As for the panic, find a safe person to confide in who can help you dispel fear and replace it with confidence and peace. By taking on this legal fight and setting emotional boundaries with clear limits on your parents — you will feel more secure and in control. Your confidence will be passed on to

your child, who will learn to live in peace and not in the perpetual fear he would have if you disappear with him.

I still can't believe it, but I committed adultery after nearly 30 years of marriage and I feel terrible. How do I make this right with my wife and my Maker?

Your Maker has assured you, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9 NIV) He already paid the price and removed your sin through his Son, Jesus Christ. This is not cheap grace, but rather redemption. The consequences of your disobedience will always be with you, and will be a constant reminder of your need for the Father and his love. Where your wife is concerned, you have violated the vows you made to her before God. She trusted you and

has been committed to you all these years, but telling her will destroy that trust and could make it more difficult for her to love you. In most cases, three people contribute to adultery — the adulterer, the lover, and the adulterer's spouse. You and your wife should seek Christian counseling to understand what happened to your marriage and to renew the spark in your marriage, which apparently went out at some point as witnessed by your adultery. During the course of the counseling, be open to the Holy Spirit's leading on whether or not to tell your wife. You may be surprised; the spouse often suspects something is going on but refuses to acknowledge the reality of the situation. It is good that you have honestly acknowledged your error to yourself. Stay in prayer, repent, and seek to renew the "love of your youth." (Pro. 5:15-23).

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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LIFE AND WORK

Aren't they worth it?

Acts 9:10-17, 19-22, 26-28

By Doug Bain

When an issue is immoral, it is wrong because it fragments or violates persons, community, or world. Many behaviors and attitudes can potentially fragment relationships — competition, fear, false expectations, mistrust. One of the most disintegrative influences is lack of substantial love, when we fail to regard others as having worth, value, or dignity as persons.

A basic component for building real community is respecting the value of each person. That certainly does not mean that behavior has no consequences. Neither does it mean that anyone is ultimately worthy. By virtue of God's creation

activity, however, we do possess worth. The survival of humanity may well depend on whether real community occurs, and it occurs where people are regarded as "precious in God's sight" and therefore in ours!

Willing to help, no matter whom (vv. 10-12). Initially all we know of this Ananias is that he was a disciple who answered "yes" to the Lord's call, he was being expected by Saul, and his hometown was Damascus.

Damascus was strategically located at the intersection of numerous caravan routes from distant trade locations and was therefore strategic to the spread of the new Christian faith. In



Bain

this city the word of the Lord came to one Ananias to go to the house of a Judas, who lived on the mile-long colonnaded street on which was located the Roman theater and Governor's residence.

Ananias was instructed to ask for the very one who was the supreme arch-enemy of every Christian everywhere. God has plans already set in motion, even for apparent arch-enemies. Ananias must be willing to trust God and affirm the worth of Saul-the-persecutor in order for community building to get under way!

Unlikely people — unlimited potential (vv. 13-17). Having done violence to believers in Jerusalem, Saul had authority to arrest believers in Damascus. Ananias could receive news regularly through caravan communication links and he knew exactly who Saul was.

"Lord, go ask for Saul,

because he is waiting for me? Are you calling me home already?" Then Ananias received the insight that this very Saul was in fact God's chosen instrument for the spread of Gospel truth to Gentiles and to Israel, drawing them together. Saul was to follow in the steps of the One he had persecuted, to be crucified for the Crucified (v.16).

Ananias obeyed and was himself given sight so as to call this Saul "Brother Saul." He had vision to see unlikely people with unlimited potential, a real step toward community building.

Believers need discipling (vv. 19b-22). Saul is now healed of his blindness, has been baptized, and regained strength. Although he has not worked out details for his shift in theology, he tells people everywhere who Jesus has now become to him. The one who "raised havoc" now "grew more and more powerful" in proclaiming Jesus.

An easily overlooked key in v.

19b indicates that Saul was disciplined by believers in Damascus. New Christians become effective when mature believers help nurture them, discipling them toward "community" and deeper relationship.

Assuming the best (vv. 26-28). On arriving in Jerusalem, Saul was feared by disciples there who had seen his work of "aggressive elimination." Barnabas, whose name means "encourager" and whose trust prompted him to assume the best, vouched for Saul and reported how God had changed his heart.

New believers with a dubious past need an advocate to assume the best about them. They rely on "encouragers" to affirm them. This entire passage holds insight for constructive relating that builds up rather than fractures and tears down!

Bain is chairman and professor of the Biblical Division at Blue Mountain College.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Celebrating restoration

Psalms 126:1-6

By Ken Hester

Randall O'Brien tells a story of deliverance that happened during a storm in Arkansas. Little Derek Perkins, age two of Rogers, Arkansas, fell from War Eagle Bridge into the raging, swollen waters of War Eagle Creek.

Tom Joplin, a paramedic for the Springdale fire department who helped rescue the child, reported that his father, Kenneth Perkins, jumped in to save his son.

Little Derek went under at least two different times, according to bystanders. Mr. Perkins managed to grab his son, swim to a tree, and hang on for more than an hour waiting for help.

I don't know why little ones are prone to fall like that. I don't know why older ones are prone to fall like that either. I don't know why Derek fell, why Adam fell, why Eve fell, why I fell, or why you fell.

As a father, I do understand why a daddy would jump in after one of his little ones. One day Derek Perkins will hear the story about how his dad jumped in to save his life. He will be moved with love. That story will change him.

The reason I know that is because I have a story that is close to Derek's. A similar story happened to every believer in that Jesus jumped into the chaos of humanity to save us.

Psalms 126 is a song about



Hester

deliverance. This psalm is the seventh song in the series of degrees. Joy reaches this seventh degree as the author revisits the reality of being pardoned from sin. The psalmist describes four divine activities of deliverance.

The Lord delivers people (126:1-2). Once again, God's people remembered the past rescues of the Lord. They reveled in glorious dreams of being brought into good standing with their God. Their joy expressed itself with laughter and singing. The joy of their salvation was even evident to the heathen.

C. H. Spurgeon wrote, "The Lord who alone turns our captivity does nothing by halves: those whom he saves from hell he brings to heaven. He turns exile into ecstasy, and banishment into bliss." This deliverance evokes praise.

The Lord deserves praise (126:3). In this verse, the

psalmist ends the story of the conversion with a praise of God's greatness. The Lord's deliverance was a personal act on his behalf, not delegated to another. This redemption was an act of God's great power and mercy. This liberation affected the heart of those freed to the point of gladness. This past emancipation paved the way to present intercession.

The Lord desires prayer (126:4). The psalmist intercedes for his nation to once again be turned to the Lord. His prayer summons pictures of the southern part of the country which is held captive by drought during the dry season. Yet, when the rains come, they are quickly saturated with the northern runoff. The prayer's meaning is for God to free his people as quickly and as thoroughly as the rains drench the southland.

The Lord distributes provision (126:5-6). Here the psalmist makes a grand statement of faith. He knows his

tearful prayer for the nation will reap the harvest of joy.

Spurgeon wrote, "When our own hearts are broken with grief at man's transgression we shall break other men's hearts: tears of earnestness beget tears of repentance. Winners of souls are first weepers for souls."

The psalmist knows all too well the painful burden of such intercession. The burden, however, must be carried. The seed of Gospel of truth must be scattered among the fertile grounds of the unbelieving. Only the farmer, who braves the elements and sows, is able to enjoy the harvest.

Questions for further discussion: How do the two metaphors about God's answer to prayer in verses 4-6 differ? What great deliverance have you experienced from God? How does God tend to answer your prayers: A flash flood, or a long planting season?

Hester is pastor of Mantee Church, Mantee.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Aid in living

John 14:15-18, 24-26; 16:7-15

By Beth W. Cape

"But the comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26).

We don't often think of the Holy Spirit. The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit — we've heard these three grouped together as the Trinity all of our lives. We've heard many sermons about God and about Jesus but we don't hear as many about the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost. When we think of

the Holy Spirit we may think of people with raised hands (heaven forbid in a Baptist church) or of people speaking in tongues. Maybe we shy away from thinking about the Holy Spirit because it is such a mystery. The words spirit and ghost are not ones with which we are comfortable. In the book of John we are told that the ministries of the Holy Spirit include helping us, teaching us, reproving us, and guiding us.

One job of the Holy Spirit is to teach believers and remind them of truths already estab-



Cape

lished by Jesus. When Jesus was tempted in the desert by Satan he responded the same way to each temptation. He answered by quoting the Word of God (read Matthew 4 for the complete story). When we are tempted, it is the Holy Spirit who brings

just the right verse to our minds at just the right moment. It is even the Holy Spirit that leads us to study and memorize the verses that we will need most in our lives. So many times we blame things that happen to us on "coincidence." When the preacher has a sermon that seems as if he is speaking right to us; when the Sunday School lesson is exactly the lesson we need; when we open the Bible and find God's Word that must have been writ-

ten exactly for this moment, we think, "What a coincidence!" When we believe in God's omnipotent presence in every moment of our lives, we must believe that it is not coincidence, it is the Spirit of God!

"I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." When Jesus left the earth he sent his "comforter" to be with his followers. The Greek word *parakletos* is difficult to translate. Though it is often translated as comforter or helper, it really means "someone who is called in to help in times of trouble or need." Today we would think of a comforter being needed in times of sorrow, but the Latin word for comforter *fortis* means brave. Wycliffe was the first to use "comforter," and in his day a comforter was someone who enabled some dispirited crea-

ture to be brave. It was sometimes used when a person was called in to encourage a company of depressed or dispirited soldiers. "Comforter" was sometimes used when an expert was called in to give advice in some difficult situation. The Holy Spirit is always with us but he must be "called in." All we have to do to "call him in" is just to be aware of his presence, but we're often too busy to be aware of his presence.

Many are the works of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He helps us in times of trouble. He encourages us in times of need. He enables us to cope with life and be brave. He is even our conscience guiding us away from wrong. He does it all! He is God!

Cape is director of children and family ministry at First Church, Picayune.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Staff from The Baptist Children's Village joined with Highland Baptist Church in Jackson to collect items needed in relief efforts for the tornado victims in Oklahoma.



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Blue Mountain students witness in Brazil

By Tracy Moser
BSU Dir., Blue Mountain College

A team of 11 students from Blue Mountain College Baptist Student Union (BSU) serving in Niteroi, Brazil, during spring break, were quite a bit like Issac — as the Brazilians characterized the team by laughter.

The team assisted International Mission Board missionaries Tom and Bonnie

Hearon with two new church starts. The Hearons are former BSU directors in Mississippi; Tom at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, and Bonnie as the assistant director at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

Carrie Sanders, a Blue Mountain senior from Senatobia, said, "It was so fulfilling to aid a church in doing exactly what Christ meant for it to do: reach out, serve, fellowship, and grow."

Through puppets, clowns, singing, and speaking, the team shared the Good News in a city park, two high schools, three elementary schools, and a preschool. While the team was performing in the park, Orla Church members were mingling among the people and asking them to come to their church.

Bonnie Hearon was able to share Christ with a man who was watching the program. His wife was planning to leave him that very day. He saw his need for Christ and asked Jesus to save him. He went home and

told his wife he had begun a new life. Both he and his wife were at Orla Church that night.

Jason Marlin, a senior from Tupelo, was able to present an anti-drug message in the two high schools. He gave a dramatic presentation about what drugs do to the brain.

The team also visited three English schools where they were able to dialogue with the Brazilians. During one of those visits, James Boler of Nesbit, was able to lead a young man to the Lord.

"When it comes to sharing about Jesus there is no language barrier," Boler said.

The team participated in a sports night on the beach where several students shared Christ with those they encountered. The team also led in a youth service at the Hearon's home church.

As one would expect, lives were changed as a result of their experience in Niteroi. Christy Campbell, a sophomore from Oxford, responds, "I feel like I received so much more than I gave while I was there. God

taught me how big is his love for me and everyone else."

Neil Shephard, a sophomore from Columbus, states, "the pastor's sermon really hit home on Wednesday night. The invitation he gave went something like, 'There are no Americans. There are no Brazilians. There are no Africans. There are no Cubans. There are only God's people.' From this I realized that when we look at the Christians in this world, we are brothers and sisters in Christ. We all need to forget what race or nationality we are and spread the Gospel to the lost in this world."

Jessica Flanagan, a junior from Tupelo, said, "God taught me that he is bigger than I can conceive. He is the God of all people and is bigger than any barrier — language or otherwise."

Team members included Jack and Tracy Moser, Christy Campbell, Jessica Flanagan, Carrie Sanders, Anna Teel, James Boler, Darrin Dickens, Todd Hollomon, Jason Marlin, and Neil Shephard.



Blue Mountain College mission trip participants

700 show up for party in inner-city New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Students, faculty and staff of New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) joined forces with inner-city Elysian Fields Avenue Church to offer an evangelistic block party in the heart of one of New Orleans' highest crime neighborhoods, the corner of North Rocheblave and St. Roch. Although this section of New Orleans is infamous for being a rough area with a high crime rate and poverty-level conditions, the event drew a large crowd without incident.

More than 40 new professions of faith, as well as nine other spiritual decisions, were recorded by the end of the three-hour event. Nearly 700 residents showed up to see what was happening on the hot Wednesday afternoon April 28.

"It was just like an old-fashioned picnic in the park, with a real sense of peace and a non-threatening environment," said Ken Taylor, NOBTS assistant professor of urban missions and pastor of the Elysian Fields Avenue church.

The entourage from NOBTS — many of whom are also members of Taylor's church — were able to conduct the block party due to a grant received from the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board.

Taylor coordinated the event to coincide with the seminary's annual home missions emphasis week, April 26-30, with the theme "On Mission New Orleans."

"It was exciting to see how quickly God moved to bring this whole thing together," Taylor said. "The results of the inner-city block party are due in great part to relationships forged and nurtured in the North Rocheblave neighborhood."

Taylor, an alumnus of NOBTS and seminary staff member since 1991, said he had felt inclined to minister in that neighborhood for several years, but he was apprehensive due to the high crime rate. He started going there himself two years ago on Saturday mornings just to talk and get to know the people and the area. Now he regularly takes his students there every

needs of the community while making sure that the gospel is proclaimed," he said. "Church members and seminary students have continued to reach out to establish a foothold."

The spiritual success of the block party was due to the fact that it was not a one-time-only event, Taylor said. "The neighborhood was open because of many visits conducted over a prolonged period of time. They can count on the fact that we're going to be there to share times of prayer and to talk to their friends and family about Christ," he said.

Taylor said he hopes ultimately a church will be started in the neighborhood. "A seven-day-a-week work will have a much greater impact there, offering Christian fellowship and a full-time ministry presence."

"An immediate goal is to start Bible studies in homes that will follow up on the new decisions and offer support to those who have recommitted their lives."

Although Taylor remembers a day several years ago when he once prayed, "Lord, I'll go anywhere you want me to go. Just not in the city, please, Lord," now 15 years later he cannot imagine himself anywhere else.

In his various roles at NOBTS, teaching urban evangelism and directing students in the supervised ministry program, Taylor said he seeks to help prepare students for "the open door that presently exists in the cities of America," and he sees NOBTS as "the perfect laboratory for urban ministry."

Besides that, Taylor said he is confident "God is wanting those neighborhoods to know him."



LIFE OF MINISTRY — Seven-year-old Jordan Taylor delivers a meal and talks with a man named Mr. Willie, a resident of the high-crime, poverty-stricken North Rocheblave neighborhood of New Orleans, during a block party April 28. Taylor is the son of Ken and Sheila Taylor, faculty and staff members at New Orleans Seminary. Ken Taylor, previously a lawyer in Phil Campbell, Ala., now is a professor of urban missions at NOBTS. Jordan was born in New Orleans and has grown up helping his father do inner-city evangelism. (BP special photo)

Tuesday for Backyard Bible Club-type activities and porch-to-porch evangelism, as well as reaching out through the ministry efforts of his 220-member congregation.

Even city officials have noticed a reduction in crime in the area since that time, Taylor said, commenting on recent statistics listed in the city's newspaper, the Times-Picayune.

"Our goal has been to minister to the

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CAAPFRBXN YP YGT
MPFR YGCY B APZTX-
CXYTR MBYG SPJ MGTX
ST ACET PJY PI TNSUY, KP
ES KUBFBY FTECBXTYG
CEPXN SPJ: ITCF ST XPY.
GCNNCB YMP: IBZT

Clue: C = A

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge: A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hosea Ten: Four.